



## CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony to the Committee on Transportation

March 11, 2009 by

Chiefs Anthony Salvatore and James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

**SB #151, AAC Use of Ignition Interlock Devices**, would raise the license suspension for a first DUI conviction from a year to 18 months, with the proviso that the motorist could reduce the suspension to 6 months by agreeing to install an IID.

The advantage to the driver is that he'd be allowed to drive sooner—as long as he's sober—get back to work sooner, and contribute to the economy sooner. The advantage to public safety is that an IID actually prevents a motorist from driving drunk, while a suspended license merely makes driving illegal, drunk or sober. We support this bill.

**SB #150, AAC Requiring fines to be Doubled for certain Violations in Construction Work Zones** would extend to municipal roads the protections already afforded to state roads, namely, doubled fines for hazardous violations in work zones.

Police officers as well as construction workers labor in constant peril from passing vehicles. This measure will provide warning to motorists, which should avert careless operation and deter intentional violations. We approve.

**SB 5262, AAC Impoundment of Vehicles for Street Racing**, will discourage illegal street racing by allowing a motor vehicle participating in such a race to be impounded for thirty days.

The excessive speeds attained by street racers poses a mortal danger to the participants, spectators, and any innocent citizens who happen to be sharing the road.

Impoundment will put some teeth into existing law. The inconvenience to the offender may not be commensurate with the danger to the public, but the measure will surely prevent repeat offenses. We hope you'll approve it.

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